

# The Passaic County Smart Book



A Resource Guide for Returning Home

2019 Edition  
by  
The New Jersey Department of Corrections  
Office of Transitional Services

## Quick Reference: Useful Numbers and Hotlines

<b>American Friends Service Committee Prisoner's Resource Center</b>	1-973-643-2205
<b>CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines</b>	
Spanish:	1-800-344-7432
English:	1-800-227-8922
<b>Addictions Hotline of NJ</b>	1-800-238-2333
<b>Alcoholics Anonymous</b>	1-800-245-1377
<b>Division of Disability Services (DDS)</b>	1-888-285-3036
<b>Division of Youth &amp; Family Services</b>	1-800-792-8610
<b>Hyacinth AIDS Foundation</b>	1-800-433-0254
<b>Legal Services of New Jersey</b>	
Toll-free Hotline, Mon.– Fri.	1-888-576-5529
<b>NJ Motor Vehicle Commission</b>	
Driver's License Suspension Hotline	1-609-292-7500
Main Information	1-888-486-3339
<b>Narcotics Anonymous of NJ</b>	1-800-992-0401
<b>National Suicide Crisis Hotline</b>	1-800-784-2433
<b>New Jersey AIDS STD Hotline (Beth Israel)</b>	1-800-624-2377
<b>2-1-1 First Call For Help</b>	2-1-1
Se habla español or toll free	1-800-331-7272
<b>Passaic County One Stop</b>	1-973-340-3400
<b>Social Security Office</b>	1-800-772-1213
<b>Service Empowering Rape Victims (SERV)</b>	1-856-964-SERV
<b>Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (Womanspace, Inc.)</b>	
Bilingual and TTY accessible	1-800-572-7233

# The Passaic County Smart Book

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## The Start of a New Beginning: How to Use this Book

The purpose of this book is to help you get ready to leave prison and return home, and to help you find the things you need to get back on your feet once you're there. It is specifically focuses on what you'll need to know during the first weeks and months that you're back, which can be a hard time of adjustment. This book will not answer all of the questions you will face in preparing for and adjusting to being back in the community, but it can help you get started. It will also tell you where to go to get more information.

**Unless a fee or charge is listed, all of the services and resources listed here are free. However, please note that the fees and charges listed in this guide are subject to change**

Each section of this book is categorized by items that you will need in order to find employment, return to school, and to obtain identification. It will also provide addresses, websites, phone numbers, and general tips on how to acquire that particular service. You can use the table of contents to easily identify what service you require, and follow instructions as to how to contact providers.

**FYI:** *\*\*Please feel free to utilize your social services department for assistance in contacting an agency or inquiring information about a service found in this book. There are some services that may be free to you that you can contact through your social services department before making an out-of-pocket expense.*

There are things that can be completed prior to release from prison. Two things specifically are requesting a duplicate social security card for **FREE** and applying for a birth certificate for a **fee**. Please contact your social worker six months prior to release to apply for these items. By doing this while still in custody, you are taking a large step towards making your transition back into the community easier for you. Providing both documents are processed successfully, you will have two necessary forms of identification made available to you the day you are released. This will speed up the process of finding employment.

You will not find every service or organization in **Passaic County** in this book but, this book should give you a place to start. The organizations that are listed can help refer you to other places in the area that can be of help to you. For current information as services change procedure and/or cost, please visit [www.njsuccess.org](http://www.njsuccess.org). **The local libraries located on pages 36-38 can assist you with obtaining internet access.**

## Getting Started: I.D. and Other Documents

In order to apply for employment, rent an apartment, apply for general assistance, food stamps, or Medicaid, proper identification will be required. While many people lose these documents when they are incarcerated, the good news is that you can begin to collect them again before you are released, by mail or with the help of your social worker. Below is a list of different documents and how to get them.

**Helpful tip:** In order to obtain identification, various agencies will require proof of address. It is smart to keep bills in your name or official documents that have your name or address for further verification of your address.



### A. Social Security Card

You can obtain a replacement card if you have a Social Security number (even if you don't remember what it is.) You can get a new card by mail from prison, or can get it after you are released by going to the social security office.

**PRE-RELEASE:** The New Jersey Department of Corrections has an agreement in place with the Social Security Administration that allows inmates in the release process to apply for a replacement Social Security Card. This service is offered through the Social Services Department of the correctional facility. The application and card are free. Once approved the card is sent to your correctional facility and will be issued to you upon your release from custody. For more information contact the Social Services Department at your correctional facility.

**POST-RELEASE:** You can also get the application by phone or by mail. The following offices are the local branches in Passaic County. Please find which office is closest to your residence.

#### U.S. Social Security Administration

200 Federal Plaza, First Floor  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
Toll Free 1-800-772-1213

If you choose to visit your local office to apply you will need to fill out the application at the office. To save time you can download the application online at [www.ssa.gov/replace\\_sscard.html](http://www.ssa.gov/replace_sscard.html). You will need to show proof of identification.

**Prison release papers count as proof of identification.**



## **B. Birth certificate**

The office of Vital Statistics in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has all the New Jersey birth, marriage, and death records. The fee is **\$25.00**. However, depending upon where you were born in Passaic County, you may be able to apply for a birth certificate for a lesser fee.

### **New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services**

Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration  
P.O. Box 370  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0370

You can go directly to the Bureau of Vital Statistics on the first floor of the Health and Agriculture Building in Trenton, on the corner of Warren and Market Street. In-person counter service is available from 8:30 to 4:00 and you can usually get the certificate on the same day.

### **Contact information for the NJ Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration:**

1-609-292-4087  
1-866-649-8726 (toll-free nationwide)

**FYI:** You are able to apply for a birth certificate while you are still in custody and have six months left prior to release. Please see your social worker to do so.

You can also obtain a birth certificate from Vital Statistics, City Hall, 155 Market Street, Paterson 973-321-1600 or the office of Vital Statistics in the town/ city of your birth. The following are a list of Vital Statistics Registrars in Passaic County. If you were born in one of the towns listed, you can apply for your birth certificate using the information listed below.

#### **Bloomington Borough**

Theresa Saver  
101 Hamburg Turnpike  
Bloomington, NJ 07403  
Phone: (973) 838-0778  
Fax: (973) 838-5115

#### **Clifton City**

Nancy Ferrigno  
City Hall  
900 Clifton Avenue  
Clifton, NJ 07013  
Phone: (973) 470-5824 x5825

**Haledon Borough**  
Deborah Gutches  
510 Belmont Avenue  
Haledon, NJ 07508  
Phone: (973) 595-7766 Ext. 107  
Fax: (973) 790-4781

**Hawthorne Borough**  
Carol Chamberlin  
Municipal Building  
445 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506  
Phone: (973) 427-5555  
Fax: (973) 427-6410

**Little Falls Township**  
Cynthia Kraus  
Municipal Building  
225 Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
Phone: (973) 256-6182  
Fax: (973) 890-4501

**North Haledon Borough**  
Renate Elatab  
Municipal Building  
103 Overlook Avenue  
North Haledon, NJ 07508  
Phone: (973) 427-7793  
Fax: (973) 427-7793

**Passaic City**  
Gwenola Breshin  
City Hall  
330 Passaic Street  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
Phone: (973) 365-5602  
Fax: (973) 365-0115

**Paterson City**  
Karen Sizer-Martin  
Department of Health  
176 Broadway  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
Phone: (973) 321-1277

**Pompton Lakes Borough**  
Barbara Cichon  
25 Lenox Avenue  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442  
Phone: (973) 835-0143 x228

Fax: (973) 839-8132

**Prospect Park Borough**

Hana Hataf  
106 Brown Avenue  
Prospect Park, NJ 07508  
Phone: (973) 790-7902 x516

**Ringwood Borough**

Diane Kastner  
Borough Hall  
60 Margaret King Avenue  
Ringwood, NJ 07456  
Phone: (973) 962-7079  
Fax: (973) 962-7823

**Totowa Borough**

Susan D'Aiuto  
537 Totowa Road  
Totowa, NJ 07512  
Phone: (973) 956-1000  
Fax: (973) 956-5668

**Wanaque Borough**

Municipal Building  
579 Ringwood Avenue  
Wanaque, NJ 07465  
Phone: (973) 839-3000 Ext 7120  
Fax: (973) 839-4959

**Wayne Township**

Mary Ann Orapello  
Wayne Health Department  
475 Valley Road  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
Phone: (973) 694-1800 Ext 3243

**West Milford Township**

Pamela Esteves  
Town Hall  
1480 Union Valley Road  
West Milford, NJ 07480  
Phone: (973) 728-2720  
Fax: (973) 728-2847

**Woodland Park Borough**

Kevin V. Galland  
Municipal Building  
5 Brophy Lane  
West Paterson, NJ 07424

Phone: (973) 345-8100  
Fax: (973) 345-8134

The Office of Vital Statistics in the New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services has all New Jersey birth, marriage, and death records. The fee is **\$25**. For more information, there is also a website: [www.state.nj.us/health/vital/](http://www.state.nj.us/health/vital/)

### C. County I.D.

The Passaic County Clerk's Office no longer provide county issued photo identification cards since 2010, however you may obtain a state issued photo identification card from your local motor vehicle agency. Motor Vehicle Commission locations are listed below.



### D. Driver's License

Once you are released from prison, you can go to the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to get a new driver's license, replace a lost one, or renew a card that has expired. If you believe that your license has been suspended, you should confirm this and figure out what you need to do to get it back. If you were convicted of any kind of drug offense, your license has been suspended.

**Prior to your release**, you can get a copy of your driver's license record, which is called an "abstract." Please contact your social worker if you are interested in obtaining an abstract. **The fee for an abstract is \$15.00**

**Upon your release**, you can go to the MVC offices in Passaic County (listed below) or a Regional Service Center to request a driver's abstract. If you have internet access, you can also request an abstract online at [WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MVC](http://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MVC). You will still have to pay **\$15.00**. If your license was suspended for six months or more because of a drug conviction, the period of the suspension will begin from the time of your release. Other kinds of suspension, such as failure to pay parking tickets, insurance surcharges, or child support, will last until you have paid the fine or worked out a payment plan. For questions about suspension, call the suspension hotline: **609-292-7500**.

**Restoration Fees, Tickets, and Surcharges:** If you found out that your license has been suspended, you will have to pay a restoration fee of **\$100.00** in order to have your license reinstated. This does not include any additional fines or surcharges you are required to pay. This fee can be paid at your local MVC Offices in Passaic County or a Regional Service Center (see below). If you have internet access, this fee can be paid online at [WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MVC](http://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MVC). You can pay your surcharges and parking tickets on this website as well.

## MVC LOCATIONS IN PASSAIC COUNTY

Paterson  
125 Broadway-Suite 201  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
609-292-6500

Wayne  
481 Route 46 West  
Wayne, New Jersey 07470  
888-486-3339

Agency, Driver Testing  
Paterson and Wayne NJ  
Monday 8:00 a.m.- 5:30p.m.  
Tuesday 8:00 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday-Friday 8:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Suspension/Restoration  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Inspection  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Road Testing  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

To replace a lost or stolen license, you will have to bring identification to the MVC and pay an **\$11.00 fee**. The MVC now has very specific kinds of I.D. that are required under the new “Six Point” system:

***Please use this guide to prepare yourself for your trip to MVC.  
Make sure you have the six points of identification necessary to  
obtain your drivers license or non drivers I.D.***

### SIX POINT SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION

#### **Primary Documents:**

(4 Points)

- Birth Certificate or Certified Copy from one of the 50 states.
- U.S. Dept. of State Birth Certificate
- US Passport-Current or Expired less than 3 years
- Current US Passport card
- Current NJ Digital Drivers License
- Valid Active Duty US Military Photo ID Card

- US Adoption papers
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship

**Secondary Documents:**

(3 Points)

- Civil Marriage/Domestic partnership/ Civil Union Certificate: Issued by the Municipality or State
- Order of Decree of Divorce
- Court Order for Legal Name Change: Signed by a judge or county clerk
- US Military Photo/Retiree Card

(2 Points)

- U.S. Military Discharge Papers (DD214)

(1 Point)

- Current/ Expired (Less than 1 year) Non-Digital NJ Photo Drivers License
- Social Security Card
- Bank statement or record
- ATM Card w/ pre-printed name and applicant signature
- NJ Public Assistance Card w/ Photo
- High School Diploma/GED/ College Diploma
- Veterans Affairs-Universal Access Photo ID Card

You can get a brochure on this new “Six Point” system from the MVC offices listed above or from the Motor Vehicle Commission website, [www.state.nj.us/mvc](http://www.state.nj.us/mvc). If your license has expired, you will have to go with your six points of I.D. to the MVC to fill out a renewal application. You may have to take the written test again. License renewal costs **\$24.00**.

**E. Non-driver’s State I.D.**

New Jersey provides state photo identification card for non-drivers. **You can get this kind of official state I.D. even if your driver’s license is currently suspended**, so this may be a good option for you if it looks like it will take you a long time to get your license back. You will still need to bring the kinds of identification documents described above, under the new “Six Point” system.

**F. Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship**

You will need this for employment if you are not a citizen. In general, if you need to replace lost forms, you can contact the US Citizenship & Immigration Service or Application Support Centers to find out about identification and fingerprint verifications. There is a fee to process an application for replacement documents. The National Customer Service Hotline is 800-375-5283.

**CITIZENSHIP LOCATIONS**

**Immigration & American Citizenship Association**

647 Main Avenue #205  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-472-4648

**US Citizenship & Immigration Service**

Peter Rodino, Jr. Federal Building  
970 Broad St.  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Application Support Center**

24 Commerce Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Application Support Center**

116 Kansas St., Main Floor  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

**G. Alien Registration Card (“Green Card”)**

To replace a missing Green Card, you must go to the US Citizenship & Immigration Service Office (see above), bring identification, and fill out a I-90 form or you can go to the website and download the forms at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). It costs **\$290** for processing. **If you have any questions or concerns about your status as a result of your criminal conviction, call Legal Services of New Jersey at 1-888-576-5529 before going to immigration.**

**H. Military Discharge Papers**

**FYI:** You may have the opportunity to meet with the Veterans Administration (VA) liaison from the Veteran’s Administration during your incarceration. The VA liaison can assist you in requesting a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers) by completing the SF-180 form. Please notify your institution’s social worker for assistance with your requests and to obtain information on your veteran status. You can also obtain the SF-180 by writing the Veteran Benefit Administration in NJ or the NPRC, which is the main record depository.

**Veterans Benefit Administration in New Jersey**

20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Main records depository**

NPRC, 9700 Page Ave  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

**Passaic County Veterans Affairs**

John Harris  
930 Riverview Drive, Suite 200  
Totowa, NJ 07512  
Phone: (973) 569-4090  
Fax: (973) 256-5716

Upon your release, you can also visit the following website to request military records; [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov). Once on the website, follow the on screen instructions for requesting personnel records. You will be asked to print out a signature page which can either be mailed or faxed. Upon receiving the form, the records will be mailed directly to you.



## **I. Passport**

Although a passport may not seem like an important thing to have at this point, it can serve as an easier form of widely accepted identification. The passport has a fee. If you're interested in obtaining one after your release Please go to the following places:

### **Passaic County Clerk's Office**

401 Grand Street 1st floor, Paterson  
973-225-3690

### **Satellite County Clerk's**

1237 Ringwood Avenue  
Haskell, NJ  
973-513-9900

### **Paterson Main Post Office**

958 Main Street #1  
Paterson, NJ 07503  
973-357-1958

### **Little Falls Main Post Office**

229 Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
973-256-0784

### **Clifton Main Post office**

1114 Main Ave.  
Clifton, NJ 07011  
973-249-7527

### **Philadelphia Passport Agency**

U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut St., Room 103  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
877-487-2778

(only serves customers who are traveling or submitting their passports for foreign visas within 14 days).

**You will need to bring:**

- An original or certified with a raised seal and file date issued by Vital Statistics
- A naturalization certificate
- Official military I.D.
- A previous U.S. passport; photocopies aren't accepted.
- Your social security card
- I.D., such as a valid driver's license, government identification or previous passport issued after your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. The expired passport should not be more than 15 years old.
- 2 identical copies of a 2x2 face front regulation passport photo

**\$110** for regular service/passport

**\$35** Dollar cash Processing Fee

A passport will be valid for 10 years.

**J. NJDOC Release Papers/Temporary I.D. Card**

Make sure you keep your prison release papers and temporary I.D. card. Your release papers can serve as identification in some circumstances and your I.D. card is valid for 30 days.

These items along with several others will all be included in your *Fair Release And Re-entry Act (FRARA)* folder given to you on the day of release.

**First Steps After Release:**

**Where Do I Go to Find...**

This section provides resources for food, shelter, clothing, money, and other emergency needs. We have provided some resource options in Passaic County that you can utilize upon release.

**BE PREPARED:** Put all your paperwork and identification in one place, a folder or an envelope, and have it with you, so you can answer questions that people ask. Never carry your birth certificate or social security card with you. You will only need to produce these items upon request.

**KEEP RECORDS:** Write down the full names and phone numbers of people that you've talked to, and when you spoke to them. Keep copies of any money orders or receipts for things you've paid for and any letters you've gotten from government agencies, the courts, or organizations that are helping you.

**BE PATIENT:** You are probably going to have to wait in a lot of lines for things, and be put on hold by telephone operators. You will meet a lot of workers who are trying to help a lot of people, not just you. Expect to wait. Expect that you may be sent to different offices and

workers to get something taken care of. Try to be patient and be polite — it will help.

Below you'll find the names, addresses, phone numbers and descriptions of agencies and services that can help you. It is a good idea to call first to check that their hours of operation haven't changed:

See following pages for list of resources for after your release.

## **A. First Stops**

The agencies below provide either a range of services and/or can refer you to other places, depending on what you need.

### **FIRST-STOP AGENCIES**

**2-1-1/First Call for Help-** is a resource for Passaic County residents, which offers comprehensive information and referrals for human services, health care, government and community resource assistance. Dial 211, which can be accessed from the internet, cell phone or landline, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Dial 800-331-7272 for the Homeless Hotline, which addresses emergencies and homeless calls.

211 is multi-lingual and accepts TTY callers.



## **B. Shelter/Food Pantries**

Here are some shelters, food pantries, and soup kitchens in Passaic County. Access to most of these shelters can be obtained through the Hudson County Board of Social Services or through a general walk in. Although each agency has been verified, please call to check for most current hours of operation. Please call the agency listed below for further information.

### **Men Only**

#### **Good Shepherd Mission**

336 Broadway, Paterson  
973-742-9244  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Referrals only  
Sunday-Saturday

#### **St. Paul's Shelter**

456 Van Houten Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-710-3900

**Eva's Village**  
393 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-523-6220

**Women & Children**

**Passaic County Women's Center**  
1027 Madison Avenue  
Paterson, New Jersey  
Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
973-881-1450 (24/7 hotline)

**Eva's Village**  
393 Main St.  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-523-6220

**Family Promise of Passaic County**  
PO Box 1588  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-928-6007



**Food Pantries**

**CUMAC/Echo**  
223 Ellison Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-742-5518  
Hours: Monday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Catholic Family and Community Services**  
24 De Grasses Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-279-7100

**Center for Food Action**  
145 Carletondale Road  
Ringwood, NJ 07456  
973-962-9001  
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Deliverance Holy Tabernacle Food Pantry**  
2 Barnet Place, Paterson  
973-595-1624  
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Every 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month: 11:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Persons must bring ID, proof of income, address, and children.

**Father English Food Pantry (The People's Choice)**

435 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ  
973-279-7100  
Fax: 973-881-0126  
Email: carlitocolumbia@yahoo.com  
Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Hispanic Multi-Purpose Center**

45 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St  
Paterson, NJ  
856-523-2623  
Fax: 973-684-7422  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Madison Avenue Cross Roads Food Pantry**

498 Madison, Paterson  
973-278-5627  
Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Proof of income & address, ID & all documents must be current.

**Madison Park Epworth**

291Sussex Street  
Paterson, NJ 07503  
973-279-9446  
Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**New Hope Community Food Pantry**

331 North 11th Street, Prospect Park, NJ  
973-942-4059  
Every 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month: 9:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Save Our Sisters Food Pantry**

551 Ringwood Avenue  
Wanaque, NJ 07465  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**St. Mary's Church Food Pantry**

22 Lakeside Avenue, Pompton Lakes  
973-831-4442  
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Referrals only with proof of income & address,  
ID & all requirements must be current

**St. Peter's Haven Food Pantry**

380 Clifton Ave  
Clifton, NJ 07011  
973-546-3406  
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**Salvation Army**

550 Main Street  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-779-1155  
Hours: Tuesday & Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Referrals only with proof of income & address,  
ID & all requirements must be current.

**True Witness Church of Jesus Christ**

234 Godwin Street, Paterson, NJ  
973-569-1166  
Hours: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**United Passaic Food Pantry-First****Presbyterian Church**

11 Washington Place  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-473-6220  
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:30p.m.

**William Chapel AME Zion Church**

133 Myrtle Avenue  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-472-3256  
Must have a referral from Father English  
Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00p.m.

**Soup Kitchens****Eva's Kitchen**

393 Main Street  
Paterson, New Jersey  
973-523-6220  
Hours: Sunday - Saturday 11:30 a.m. Serving 12:00 p.m.

**Salvation Army**

550 Main Street  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-779-1155  
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**C. Clothing/Laundry**

The following places provide free or low-cost clothing.

**What U Got Good Thrift Shop**

85 Passaic St., Garfield  
973-777-7933

**Salvation Army Family Store**

31 Van Houten Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-742-1126  
Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30p.m.

**St. John Episcopal Thrift Shop**

215 Lafayette Avenue, Paterson  
973-779-0966  
Hours: Tuesday & Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.

**Red White & Blue Thrift Shop**

765 River St., Paterson  
973-278-6021  
Hours: Monday- Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Showers and Laundry**

The following places provide free showers and laundry facilities.

**Well of Hope CDC Drop-in Center**

207 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Paterson  
973-523-0700 ext. 25  
Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00p.m.

People who drop in are eligible for showers, laundry, refreshments, referrals, Intensive Case Management Services, comprehensive risk counseling, therapeutic, support, health education groups.

**D. Transportation**

There is no general program to provide assistance paying for transportation. NJ Transit will no longer accept release papers in substitution for bus tickets. However, you may purchase transit tickets from NJDOC for \$2.00 prior to your release, which will assist you with reaching your destination.

Some of the programs listed in this book will provide bus passes or bus cards to help you participate in the program. If you are assigned to a community/social service or reporting program you may want to ask if the program offers transportation assistance.

For specific bus, rail or train schedules and fare you may call NJ Transit: (973) 275-5555, NJ Text Telephone: 800-772-2287 or visit the NJ Transit Website <http://www.njtransit.com>. For specific route information on the website, click on the "trip planner". For your Passaic County travel convenience, you may want to purchase weekly, monthly or discounted transit passes (when applicable).

For additional Passaic County bus or rail information and specific routing of each bus line, contact either the Meadowlink at 201-704-1011 or TransOptions at 973-267-7600.

**Transportation For The Disabled and Senior Citizens** 1-800-955-2321 Call between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday- Friday. NJ Transit's Access Link paratransit service is comparable to the local bus service. This service is specifically for people whose disability prevents them from using the local fixed route bus service. You must call to be interviewed in person to determine your eligibility

Passaic County Paratransit  
[www.passaiccountynj.org](http://www.passaiccountynj.org)  
John McGill  
973-305-5756

Office of Amtrak Access  
800-872-7245

Greyhound Customers with Disabilities Travel Assistance Line  
800-752-4841

## E. Money/Public Assistance



Once you are released from custody, you will need a source of income until you can find a job (see section of "Finding a Job" for job seeking information).

**The DOC does not provide any "gate money," except for the money you may have had in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you are released, you should try to do so.**

Based on need, Parole can give up to \$300.00 in emergency funds, but it is at their discretion. Ask your parole officer about this.

You may be eligible to get some sort of public assistance (welfare), but not everyone qualifies for this. Listed below are some basics on seeking and applying for benefits.

### **Work First New Jersey Program (WFNJ)**

**WFNJ** provide cash benefits (General Assistance) for single people and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families for people who have custody of their children. Both programs will require you to work or be actively looking for work and both have a five-year lifetime time limit. Work First New Jersey also has an Emergency Assistance program that you may qualify for if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless: it can pay for things like food, clothing and transportation costs look for housing, but also utility payments and temporary rental or mortgage payment assistance. You can contact your social worker for more information.

**FYI:** Please call your local office to verify the eligibility requirements for obtaining General Assistance.

**NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)**

You may apply for NJ SNAP while applying for GA/TANF. If you were convicted after August 22, 1996 of a drug distribution or sales offense, you may still be able to get NJ SNAP if you have completed or are enrolled in a licensed drug treatment program, or completed a program in prison and are drug free (you will be tested). Same goes for possession offenses.

**WFNJ and SNAP Application Sites**

**Passaic County Board of Social Services**

80 Hamilton Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-881-0100  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Passaic County Board of Social Services**

114 Prospect Street  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-881-0100  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Social Security (SSI, Medicare, Medicaid)**

935 Allwood Rd. 3rd Fl., Clifton  
1-800-772-1213  
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**F: Veterans Benefits:**



If you were receiving veteran's benefits, either for disability or a pension, and you were incarcerated for more than 60 days, you will have to get reinstated after you are released. If you were not receiving benefits and you are a veteran, you may be eligible for benefits or for other programs and services, including health care. You can contact the social worker in your institution located in the social services department for assistance. You can also contact the Veteran's Administration for questions about benefits at 800-827-1000; the health benefit number is 877-222-VETS. The 24 hour veterans mental health hotline is **1-866-VETS-NJ4U**.

The VA Benefit Administration is located at  
20 Washington Pl., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newark  
973-645-1441 (regional office).



Visit this local VA office to reinstate benefits or apply for new programs and services.

The following are some websites that can assist you in looking for information about veteran services:

Federal Veterans Information: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Info for NJ Veterans: [www.vetsinfo.com](http://www.vetsinfo.com)

New Jersey Dept of Veterans Affairs: [www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)

New Jersey Veterans Guide:  
[www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide](http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide)

VA Home Loans: [www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov)

Veterans Counseling Service Center:  
[www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html](http://www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html)

**Be aware that the VA takes considerable time to make decisions. On average, it can take 273 days to process a new application for benefits.**

**OTHER BENEFIT PROGRAMS:** You may be eligible for other cash benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits (if you are seriously disabled and cannot work) call 1-800-772-1213 and the Women's, Infants, Children (WIC) program, which gives food vouchers to low-income parents. You can inquire about WIC at the city and county welfare offices.

### **Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support**



The transition from prison back to society may take some time to get adjusted and we want to provide you with options to lessen the

burden. Taking care of your mind and body will be important for your success. Below are a few places that may be of assistance.

### **Taking Care of Yourself: Health Care Resources**

It is very important that you pay attention to your health during the period after you are released, and that you make sure you have a plan to get any prescriptions that you need filled and see a doctor if you have health conditions that need care. Also, stress and changes in routine can make much health conditions worse. Below, you'll find information on paying for health care and clinics and other resources in Passaic County.

Prior to your release, you will be given the opportunity to apply for Medicaid through the [Affordable Health Care Act \(ACA\)](#). ACA allows those with little or no income to be eligible for Medicaid under the new law. New Jersey residents complete an application for New Jersey Family Care and out of state residents complete an application for the Healthcare Marketplace. Applying for healthcare while at NJDOC allows enough time for processing to be completed and a health insurance card to be mailed to your residence with coverage beginning the day of your release. For more information regarding the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, please contact your social worker or visit [www.njfamilycare.org](http://www.njfamilycare.org) or [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). Below is some information regarding traditional Medicaid.

#### **A. Health Care Benefits: Am I eligible?**

In New Jersey, the **Medicaid** program provides health care benefits for some low-income people. If you gain custody of children under 18 when you are released, you may qualify if you are single, head of house and unemployed, or existing earnings are not enough to support the household. Other eligibility requirements include low-income status, over age 65, blindness, or inability to work due to a disability.

If you are disabled and are applying for SSI, you will also be screened for Medicaid at that time. If you qualify for General Assistance benefits, you will get some very basic health care benefits through Medicaid ("Plan G"). **Medicaid is a separate program from GA or TANF, so you don't have to be receiving those benefits to qualify for Medicaid.**

For questions about [Medicaid eligibility](#), you can call 1-800-356-1561. To apply for Medicaid in Passaic County go to the Passaic County Board of Social Services at 80 Hamilton Street in Paterson 973-881-0100.

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for health care benefits through the **Veteran's Administration**, which provides a "Medical Benefits Package" for enrolled veterans. You can call 877-222-VETS for more information about eligibility and applying for benefits.

If you are HIV+ or have AIDS, you may also be eligible for the **AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP)**, which provides help paying for AIDS medication for people who don't have other ways of paying. **You can apply for this program before you are released.** Contact the **Aids Drug Distribution Program** at 609-588-7038 or toll free 877-613-4533, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm to apply.

**Easter Seals New Jersey** provides information, referrals and loans of medical equipment (including wheelchairs) to people in need. For information call 732-257-6662.

## **B. General Health Care Providers**

Even if you do not have Medicaid or other health insurance or benefits, Passaic County has clinics that provide primary health care at low cost, sliding scale or for free. They are listed below. Most hospitals have charity care and you should ask about this if you go to a hospital emergency room for treatment.

### **PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**

#### **Broadway Clinic Paterson Community Health Center**

227 Broadway  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
(973) 278-2600

Services: Primary and preventative health care, immunizations, women's health, dental care, cancer screening, tobacco use screening, tobacco cessation & counseling, ear & eye screenings, mental health and social services.

#### **Paterson Community Health Center**

32 Clinton Street  
Paterson, NJ 07522  
(973)790-6594

Services: Primary and preventative health care, immunizations, women's health, dental care, cancer screening, tobacco use screening, tobacco cessation & counseling, ear & eye screenings, mental health and social services.

#### **Paterson Community Clinic**

355 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Paterson  
(973) 523-9090

Services: Internal, pulmonary and sleep disorder medicine

#### **Medical Center at Willowbrook an Affiliate of Saint Joseph's Hospital Medical Center**

57 Willowbrook Blvd. Ste 1, Wayne, NJ 07440  
(973) 256-0886  
Hours: Mon- Fri 8am-4:30pm

#### **St. Joseph's Family Health Center**

21 Market Street Suite A  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
(973) 754-4200

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

**NHCAC Health Center**

110 Main Avenue  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-777-0256

Services: Pediatric ENT, pediatric audiology, allergy and asthma, ophthalmology, genetics, perinatology, internal medicine, women's health, dentistry, podiatry, mobile health center, and community screenings

**NHCAC Health Center**

148 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Passaic, NJ 07055

Services: Pediatric ENT, pediatric audiology, allergy and asthma, ophthalmology, genetics, perinatology, internal medicine, women's health, dentistry, podiatry, mobile health center, and community screenings

All of these centers accept Medicaid and some insurance plans, but also provide services on a sliding scale basis, additional fees for x-rays and lab work; Primary and preventive care. Staff there can help you apply for Medicaid or other benefits if you may be eligible.

**PASSAIC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Public health screenings are held at the WillowBrook Mall on the **third** Thursday of every month except for the months of November and December. No appointments are needed for blood pressure, glucose or cholesterol screenings.

Eye screenings are held at the Passaic County Health Department on the **fourth** Thursday of every month except for the months of November and December. To request an appointment for eye screening services, please contact:

18 Clark Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-881-4396

**HOSPITALS IN PASSAIC COUNTY**

Chilton Hospital  
97 West Parkway  
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444  
973-831-5000

Saint Joseph's Hospital  
703 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ 07503  
973-754-2000

Saint Joseph's Wayne Hospital  
224 Hamburg Turnpike  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
973-942-6900

Saint Mary's Hospital  
211 Pennington Avenue  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-470-3000

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NORTHERN NJ**

680 Broadway  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-345-4250

Services: Abortion services, birth control, HIV testing, men's health care, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing & services, STD testing, treatment & vaccines, and women's health care.

575 Main Street  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
(201) 489-1140

Services: Abortion services, birth control, HIV testing, men's health care, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing & services, STD testing, treatment & vaccines, and women's health care.

**C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS**

In addition to the clinics listed above, a number of places in Passaic County offer care and support services specifically for people with HIV and AIDS.

**Buddies of New Jersey, Inc.**

149 Hudson Street  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
201-489-2900

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm

Services: medical case management, non-medical case management, substance abuse, mental health, oral care, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), housing, community outreach and education, peer support groups, transportation, food bank, translation, helpline, HIV testing.

**Capeco Resource Center**

100 Hamilton Plaza Suite 1406  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-742-6742

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Offers information about resources and services that are available in the community to people with HIV or AIDS.

**Catholic Charities**

24 Degrasse St., Paterson  
973-523-4456

Hours: Monday- Friday 8:30am-4:30pm  
Referral to medical and social services.

**Hackensack University Medical Center**

20 Prospect Ave., Suite 507, Hackensack  
551-996-2000 or 855-424-9355

Services outpatient medical care (lab diagnostic specialist), drug distribution

**Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**

100 Hamilton Plaza Suite 421  
Paterson, NJ 07505

973-278-7636 or call the state's hotline 800-433-0254.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Services include case management, support groups, buddy services, treatment advocacy, pastoral care and legal client advocacy.

**NJ AIDS/STD Hotline**

1-800-624-2377 – 24 hours/day

The hotline gives referrals, general information, counseling, testing locations and treatment information.

**Paterson Counseling Center**

319-321 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-523-8316

Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. for medication only

Mobile: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for medication only

Services substance abuse counseling and treatment, HIV counseling, Employee Assistance Program, methadone maintenance therapy, DUI program, and perinatal care.

**Ryan White Title I Services**

125 Ellison St., 1<sup>st</sup> fl.  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-321-1241

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30pm

**RAPID TESTING CENTERS**

Paterson Department of Health- STD Clinic  
176 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-321-1277 ext. 2736

Eva's Village (Satellite of Paterson Department of Health)  
393 Main Street, Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-321-1277 ext. 2736

Passaic Alliance (Satellite of Paterson Department of Health)  
286 Passaic Street, Paterson, NJ 07055  
973-321-1277 ext. 2736

Planned Parenthood of Metro New Jersey-Paterson  
680 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-754-4726

Planned Parenthood of Metro New Jersey-Pompton Lakes  
750 Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442  
973-839-2363

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center  
Comprehensive Care Center  
160 Market Street, Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-754-4701

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center-De Paul Center  
11 Getty Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-754-2270

Well of Hope Drop-in Center  
207 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-523-0700

## **D. Services for People With Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C**

In addition to the general medical care facilities listed above, there are a few services especially for people with tuberculosis and hepatitis C.

### **Tuberculosis Control Programs:**

#### **Clifton Health Department**

900 Clifton Ave., Clifton  
973-470-5758

Hours: 1st & 3rd Monday 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 1st & 3rd  
Wednesday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Provides free testing, treatment, and medical supervision of suspected or diagnosed cases of tuberculosis and also conducts educational programs.

## **E. Dental Care**



Most of the locations listed below don't provide free care, but do have a sliding scale for those without insurance. Waiting lists can be long.

#### **Paterson Community Health Center**

32 Clinton St, Paterson  
976-790-6594

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9am-5pm;  
Tuesday & Friday 9am-8pm; Sat. 9am-3pm  
Sliding fee scale, based on income and federal guidelines, all major  
insurance is accepted.

**Dental Directions**

139 Haledon Avenue, Haledon  
973-790-4747

Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm  
Sliding fee scale, based on income and federal guidelines, all major  
insurance is accepted.

**Access Dental**

1300 Main Avenue, Clifton  
973) 340-9000

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month)  
Sliding fee scale, based on income and federal guidelines, all major  
insurance is accepted.

**Belmont Dental Associates**

476 Belmont Ave  
Haledon, NJ 07508  
973-790-4494

Hours: Monday 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 pm.

**F. Mental Health/Substance Abuse Resources**

**FYI:** Drug addiction can be fatal to your health, not to mention illegal and can result in jail time. In order to be successful in society, seeking services for a drug or alcohol addiction will be necessary. Many of the health clinics, support centers and other resources listed in this guide can help refer you to treatment that most fit your needs. Listed below are some of Passaic County’s treatment resources and each of these will also help with referrals if they cannot help you. If you want treatment, you should also ask your parole officer for help—beds in treatment facilities are hard to come by, and they can help you get in. There are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings all of Passaic County. To find a meeting near you, call 800-992-0401 (for NA) or 866-920-1212 (for AA). For other self-help group resources, call the New Jersey Self Help Clearinghouse at 800-367-6274. Also, you can call the Addictions Hotline of NJ at 800-238-2333.

**Detoxification Center Locations:**

**Aldie Counseling Center**

2291 Cabot Boulevard West  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
215-642-3230  
Monday-Thursday: 6:00am-9:00Pm/ Friday 8:00am- 4:00Pm

**Burlington Comp Counseling Inc.**

75 Washington Street  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060  
609-267-3610

**Carrier Clinic**

252 County Route 601  
Belle Mead, NJ 08502  
800-933-9579

**Hunterdon Med Center/Addictions Treatment Services**

2100 Wescott Drive  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
908-788-6401

**Jersey City Medical Center**

355 Grand Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07302  
201-915-2000

**Kaleidoscope Health Care, INC**

75 Harrison Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07304  
201-451-5425

**Livengrin Foundation Inc**

4833 Hulmeville Road  
Bensalem, PA 19020  
215-638-5200

**New Horizon Treatment Services Inc**

132 Perry Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618  
609-394-8988

**New Pathway Counseling Services**

995 Broadway  
Bayone, NJ 07002  
201-436-1022

**Princeton House Behavioral Health**

905 Herrontown Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
609-497-3300

**Somerset Treatment Services**

110 Rehill Avenue  
Somerville, NJ 08876  
908-722-1232

**Spectrum Health Care, INC**

74-80 Pacific Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07304  
201-860-2544

**Summit Behavior Health**

4065 Quakerbridge Road  
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550  
866-501-9519

**Today Inc**

1990 North Woodbourne Road  
Newtown, PA 18940  
215-968-4713

**Turning Point, INC.**

680 Broadway Ste. 104  
Paterson, NJ 07096  
973-380-0915

**Outpatient and Residential Treatment Centers:**

**Addictions Hotline of New Jersey**

PO Box 1004, Williamstown  
800-238-2333

Hours: 24 hours/day

Provides NJ residents with information about the types of detox, evaluation, treatment, professional and support groups available to drug and alcohol abusers or addicts who wish to stop their use of chemical substances.

**National Clearinghouse for Drug and Alcohol Information**

800-729-6686

Hours: 24 hours/day

The nation's one-stop resource for substance abuse prevention and treatment information.

**Challenge Program**

5 Colt Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-345-9100

Substance abuse program offers outpatient services

**Damon House, Inc.**

175 Market Street #209  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-279-5563

Addictions services offer outpatient services

**Recovery Center at Eva's Village**

393 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-754-6784  
Hours: Mon-Sat 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Holidays 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Hispanic Info. Center**

186 Gregory Ave., Passaic  
973-779-7022  
Alcohol Outreach Program for Minorities

**New Bridge, Inc.**

105 Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes  
973-831-0613  
Offers outpatient mental health and substance abuse counseling  
and psychiatric medication services

**New Life Recovery**

23 Colfax Ave.  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442  
973-728-7788  
Addiction services offers intensive outpatient program

**Northeast Life Skills**

121 Howe Ave., Passaic  
973-777-2962  
Addiction services offers intensive outpatient program

**Options Counseling Center**

9 West Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-345-1883  
Offers outpatient, partial hospitalization and day treatment services  
(mental health and addiction)

**Paterson Counseling Center**

319 Main St., Paterson  
973-523-8316  
Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. for medication only  
Mobile: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for medication only  
Offers substance abuse counseling and treatment

**SERV/Clifton**

777 Bloomfield, Clifton  
973-594-0125  
Hours: Mon-Thur. 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Offers outpatient mental health services

**St. Joseph's Hospital (Harbor House)**

122 Barclay St. Paterson, NJ 07503  
973-3415-2830  
Partial hospitalization mental health program

**Straight & Narrow**

508 Straight St., Paterson  
973-345-6000  
Offers both residential and outpatient addiction services/treatment

**Christian Counseling Center**

352 Clifton Ave., Clifton  
973-365-2125  
Offers individual, couple, group and family therapy

**Passaic County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services**

401 Grand Street Room 417, Paterson  
973-881-2834

**Mental Health Association in Passaic County**

404 Clifton Ave., Clifton  
973-478-4444  
[www.MHAPC.com](http://www.MHAPC.com)

**National Mental Health Association**

1-800-969-6642  
Provides high quality, low cost individual, couple, family and group counseling services to all individuals requesting treatment. Fees are on a sliding scale.

**Mental Health Cares**

24 Hour Hotline  
1-866-202-4357

**Seton Comprehensive Treatment Center of St. Mary's**

530 Main Ave., Passaic  
973-470-3194  
Offers outpatient or partial hospitalization mental health services

**St. Joseph's Hospital Mental Health Clinic**

56 Hamilton St., Paterson  
973-754-4750  
Offers outpatient mental health services  
\*Must set an appointment.

**Wayne Counseling and Family Service Center**

1022 Hamburg Turnpike, Wayne  
973-694-1234  
Services include substance abuse assessment, as well as individual, marital and family therapy.

## **G. Emergency Mental Health Services**

**FYI: If at any time you may want to hurt yourself or someone else, please call 911. If you feel like you may be a danger to yourself or others, it is very important that you call someone for help. Here are a few numbers of places that would be more than willing to come to your aid.**

### **Passaic County Division of Mental Health**

973-881-2834

#### **Primary Screening Centers for Passaic County:**

##### **St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center**

703 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ 07503  
**HOTLINE: 973-754-2230**

##### **St. Mary's Hospital**

211 Pennington Avenue  
Passaic, NJ  
**HOTLINE: 973-470-3025**

## **H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses/Eye care**



##### **Clifton Eye Care**

1016 Main Ave., Clifton  
973-546-5700  
Mon. & Tues. 7:15 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Wed. 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Fri. 7:15 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Sat 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
This site offers low cost vision screening services.

##### **Associated Eye Physicians**

1033 Clifton Ave. #107, Clifton  
973-472-6405  
Hours: Monday Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;  
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Provides comprehensive, high quality, low cost eye and vision care services to the underserved population.

##### **Associated Eye Physicians**

505 Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes  
973-835-1222  
Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Gold Optical**

136 Market St., Paterson

973-278-5300

Call for hours

Provides comprehensive, high quality, low cost eye and vision care services to the underserved population.

**Finding a Job:****Employment Assistance and Training Programs**

Getting a job is usually one of the most important necessities when released from prison. Not everyone can obtain employment immediately, sometimes things like getting drug treatment, dealing with your housing, health or family situation may come first. For most people, though, finding work is the first step to getting back on your feet. It will be very challenging to get a job once you have been in prison, but it is not impossible, and you need to be persistent and patient. Below are some pointers on job searching, and information about resources that can help you find a job or get training for the job you want.

**A. Things to Know Before You Start Your Job Search**

**BE PREPARED:** It is essential that you are organized, and have all records of previous employment available when beginning a job search. A resume is the smartest thing you can create. If you are unsure of how to do so, you may go to your local one-stop career center and seek assistance. Not only will employers want to know your work history, they will inquire about accurate dates that you were employed with the company. Knowing this information is vital to ensuring employment. Employers will not be interested in hearing that you do not remember dates or addresses for your work history. If an employer decides to hire you he/she will also need your identification so make sure that is readily available.

**PRESENTATION:** Look as neat, clean and organized as possible, no matter what the job is. Be polite and respectful, even when people are not polite and respectful to you, and many won't be. Making the person you want to help you or hire you mad won't get you the job you want.



### **TALKING ABOUT YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD:**

Never omit or falsify a document that asks you specifically if you have a criminal record. The application may ask you to give details to the nature of your crime and it may not. Chances are a criminal background check will be administered prior to employment and lying will cost you the job.

### **IT'S A JOB FOR RIGHT NOW...IT'S NOT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**

When you are first starting out, especially if you've been out of the job market for a while, or have never had a job, you need to build a work history, and, of course, you need to make some money. Take whatever job you can get for now — it doesn't have to be the exact job you want, or what you eventually want to be doing. Do this job well —even if it's not a great job — and it can help you get a better one in the future. A year of good job performance will make your criminal record matter less.

## **B. Help with Job Search and Job Training**

The following are good places to start in looking for a job.

### **ACP Construction Trades Apprenticeship Program:**

866-876-4527 or 866-TRN4JBS



### **Passaic County One-Stop**

200 Memorial Drive  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-742-9226 Ext: 7319  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

25 Howe Avenue  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
973-916-2645  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

1237 Ringwood Avenue  
Wanaque, NJ 07456  
973-617-1480  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

The one-stop is a series of workshops designed to meet the needs of today's job seekers. Workshops are presented on Self Management Skills, Labor Market Information, Effective Job Search, Marketing/Resume and interviewing.

**The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**  
370 Broadway 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Room 305, Paterson  
973-977-4285(voice) or 973-253-1474 (TTY)

**Greater Paterson OIC**  
175 Market Street, Suite 400  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-881-0540  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

**Paterson Adult & Continuing Education Center**  
151 Ellison St., Paterson  
973-321-0760  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

**Hispanic Multi-Purpose Service Center**  
911 East 23<sup>rd</sup>, Paterson  
973-684-3320  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm

### **C. Legal Restrictions on Employment and Protections Against Discrimination**

If you are interested in getting a job and building a career in a particular area, you should make sure that it isn't one that is forbidden to someone with the kind of criminal conviction that you have on your record. There are about 22 categories of jobs in New Jersey that exclude people with convictions (which conviction it is varies by job). These include: aircraft/airport employees; paid public school employees, school bus drivers and school crossing guards; bank employees; bartenders and waiters in establishments where liquor is served; housing authority and municipal police and parking enforcement officers; New Jersey Turnpike Authority employees; liquor retail, wholesale, manufacturing or distributing employees; paid firefighters; child care center employees; community residences for individuals with developmental disabilities. A much larger number of jobs require that you disclose your criminal record, and that employers perform background checks; some of these, however, also require that employers consider evidence of rehabilitation. These include most jobs in the health care and counseling fields (including drug and alcohol counseling) and social workers.

**FYI:** If you are going to begin training in a particular field, make sure you find out from the training course whether there are any restrictions that will keep you from getting a job.

#### **PROTECTIONS FOR LICENSED OCCUPATIONS:**

If you are not absolutely barred from a position because of your conviction, New Jersey law says that you cannot be denied a professional license simply because of your conviction unless the crime for which you were convicted relates to the occupation you want to enter. If the licensing board or agency wants to deny you a

license because the crime is related to the occupation, they have to explain, in writing, that they have considered certain factors like the seriousness of the crime, the circumstances of the crime, the date and your age when convicted, whether the crime was an isolated or repeated event, social conditions, and evidence of rehabilitation. You can ask your parole officer about applying for “certificate of rehabilitation,” which can be used in your license application.

## **D. Benefits for Employers Who Hire People With Criminal Records**

As you look for a job you can tell employers that the federal government has programs to support employers who hire people coming out of prison.

### **WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT**

Within the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), your employer may be able to save up to \$4800 the first year you are hired. Make sure to inform your potential employer of this benefit.

**For questions regarding WOTC, please call 609-292-5525 or 1-800-792-8881**

### **FEDERAL BONDING PROGRAM**

The Federal Bonding program provides bonding or “insurance coverage” for employers who hire individuals with criminal histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot get jobs due to their backgrounds. You can get information about this program for the New Jersey Department of Labor, Workforce Division or One-stop Career Center, 370 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07501.



## **E. Opening a Checking or Savings Account**

After you’ve gotten a source of income, you may want to open a checking or savings account. A checking account is a great idea because many jobs provide direct deposit, and your check is automatically deposited into your account on payday. Using checks to pay for your bills is also cheaper than using money orders. To open a checking account you usually need a picture I.D. (driver’s license or non-driver state I.D.), proof of address, birth certificate, and a social security card. You can also request a debit card with your account, which you can use just like a credit card (as long as you have the money in your account already). You can get a debit card for either a checking account, or a savings account, but with a savings account you can earn interest on the money you’ve saved. Fees for these accounts will vary depending on the type of account and bank. Many banks now offer free checking.



## **F. Public Libraries**

Your local public library can be a good resource for your job search. Public computers provide internet access (and help using the computer), job and course listings, and other local directories. Libraries also often carry the government forms mentioned in this guide, and librarians can help you find other information that you need.

### **Libraries**

#### **Bloomington Public Library**

101 Hamburg Tpke  
Bloomington, NJ 07403-1236  
973-838-0077

#### **Clifton Public Library**

292 Piaget Ave  
Clifton, NJ 07011-2521  
973-772-5500

#### **Clifton Public Library**

44 Lyall Rd  
Clifton, NJ 07012-1618  
973-471-0555

#### **Haledon Public Library**

404 Morrissee Ave  
Haledon, NJ 07508-1314  
973-790-3808

#### **North Haledon Free Public Library**

129 Overlook Ave  
Haledon, NJ 07508-2570  
973-427-6213

#### **Louis Bay Second Library**

345 Lafayette Ave  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506-2546  
973-427-5745

#### **Alfred Baumann Free Public Library**

7 Brophy Ln  
Little Falls, NJ 07424-2752  
973-345-8120

#### **Little Falls Free Public Library**

8 Warren St  
Little Falls, NJ 07424-2230  
973-256-2784

**Jefferson Township Public Library**

1031 Weldon Rd  
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438-9504  
973-697-6363

**Passaic Public Library**

Passaic Public Library Trustees  
195 Gregory Ave  
Passaic, NJ 07055-4805  
973-779-0474

**Reid Memorial Branch Library**

80 3rd St  
Passaic, NJ 07055-7504  
973-777-6044

**Paterson Free Public Library**

930 Main St  
Paterson, NJ 07503-2307  
973-357-3000

**Paterson Free Public Library**

405 Union Ave  
Paterson, NJ 07502-1916  
973-357-3022

**Paterson Free Public Library**

First Ward Branch  
56 N Main St  
Paterson, NJ 07522-1722  
973-357-3021

**Pompton Lakes Public Library**

Borough of Pompton Lakes  
333 Wanaque Ave  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-1840  
973-835-0482

**Ringwood Public Library**

145 Skylands Rd  
Ringwood, NJ 07456-2200  
973-962-6256

**Eisenhower Dwight D Library**

Borough of Totowa  
537 Totowa Rd  
Totowa, NJ 07512-2018  
973-790-3265

**Wanaque Free Public Library**

616 Ringwood Ave  
Wanaque, NJ 07465-2094  
973-839-4434

**Preakness Library**  
1006 Hamburg Tpke  
Wayne, NJ 07470-3279  
973-694-7110

**Wayne Public Library Inc**  
475 Valley Rd  
Wayne, NJ 07470-3532  
973-694-4272

**West Milford Township Library**  
1490 Union Valley Rd  
West Milford, NJ 07480-1338  
973-728-2820



## **Reconnecting with Family**

As you prepare to come home, you may be thinking about reuniting with family members, including those you may not have seen for a long time. You may be excited to see your kids, your spouse, your parents, and others who are part of your family, and they may be glad to see you home, but your return can be stressful for you and for them. All kinds of issues can come up, and you may need some help solving some of the problems that arise. This section provides some information and resources to help solve these issues.

### **Hotlines for Family Services Resources**

**NJ Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline:**  
1(877) NJ-ABUSE (652-2873)

**Child Care Hotline:**  
1 (800) 332-9227

**NJ Child Support Hotline:**  
1 (877) NJKIDS- 1 (655-4371)

**Division of Family Development:**  
1(800) 792-9773

**NJ Department of Children and Families**  
1 (855) INFO-DCF 1-855-463-6323

**Family Health Line:**  
1 (800) 328-3838

**Family Help Line (for stressed parents):**  
1 (800) THE KIDS (843-2537)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:**

1 (800) 799-7233

**NJ Domestic Violence Hotline:**

1 (800) 572-7223

**Parents Anonymous:**

1 (800) 843-5437

**A. Family Counseling Resources**

The following places can provide support, marital and family counseling and parenting classes to help you reunite with your family.

**Eastside High School**

150 Park Ave., Paterson  
973-569-0018

**Catholic Charities**

24 Degrasse Street, Paterson  
973-279-7100  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

**Catholic Family & Community Services Adoption & Counseling Services**

186 Butler St., Paterson  
973-405-6711  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

**Wayne Counseling & Family Services**

1022 Hamburg Turnpike, Wayne  
973-694-1234  
Hours: Monday & Friday 10:00am-3:00pm  
Tuesday-Thursday 10:00am-9:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm  
Offers substance abuse assessment, parenting education, individual, marital and family therapy, psychiatric evaluation, life skills education, support groups as well as in-home therapy for the elderly and disabled.

**Christian Counseling Center**

352 Clifton Ave, Clifton  
973-365-2125  
Offers a wide range of counseling services and programs; offers individual, group and family counseling for all ages. Services include alcohol and drug addictions testing, attention deficit disorder, marriage counseling, eating disorders, smoking cessation, parent support and education groups, mental health and psychological testing, depression, grief and loss, stress and loneliness.

**Passaic Pal**

40 4<sup>th</sup> St., Passaic  
973-777-7811

**Greater Passaic Clifton Community Center**  
45 Drive, Passaic  
973-777-0123



## **B. Child Custody and Visitation**

Establishing visitation and gaining custody of your children once you are released is not an overnight procedure. If you had custody of your kids at the time you were incarcerated, and no family was able to take care of them, they may have been placed in foster care. If this is the case, and you do not know your child's case manager's name or number, contact the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS), at 800-531-1091. You will have to make an appointment with the case manager for an interview. They may not be willing to give you information over the phone. You'll be asked a series of questions in order to assess when and if you will be given visitation rights, so that you may reestablish your relationship with the child and hopefully gain custody again. This is just a quick overview of what to do and what you can expect.

**FYI:** If you were convicted of any violent or sexual offenses against children, you may be unable to live with or regain custody of your children.

Listed below are the different offices for DCPD in Passaic County. Please contact the office that applies to your location.

**Passaic Central**  
22 Mill Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-977-4525  
800-531-1260  
Fax: 973-684-7255

**Passaic North**  
100 Hamilton Plaza, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-523-6090  
800-847-1743  
Fax: 973-977-6026/6027

## **C. Getting and Paying Child Support**

Whether you have custody of your children on your own when you get out, and need help from an absent ("noncustodial") parent, or you do not have custody of kids who need your support, child support payments will be an important part of your life after you are released. Some basic information is included below, as well as far as enforcing a child support order.

Child support, custody and visitation issues are very complicated, and if you can get **a lawyer, you should**. Contact the Legal Services of New Jersey hotline, from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, at 888-576-5529, or

the Passaic County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at 973-345-4585. You can also contact Passaic County Legal Services, at 152 Market Street, Paterson, NJ 07505 973-523-2900. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner's Self Help Legal Clinic, P.O. Box 768, Newark, NJ 07101.

**GETTING AND ENFORCING A CHILD SUPPORT ORDER**

If you have custody of your children, and want financial support from the non-custodial parent, you can apply for child support at the Superior Court of NJ Family Division, County Administration Bldg. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505 973-247-8459. You can also call 1-877-NJKIDS1 for more information about this.

**PAYING CHILD SUPPORT**

If you have kids that you did not have custody of before you went to prison, there may be a child support order requiring you to pay a certain amount every month for their support. Even if you did not go to court — if, for example, the parent with custody filed for the order while you were incarcerated — the court can still order you to pay child support. The amount you pay in child support is tied to your income, and if the court does not know your income, they will assume you are working 40 hours a week at minimum wage. Child support payments are usually taken out of your paycheck. If you have not paid at all or missed payments, you will owe "arrearages." Unless you got a modification of your child support order when you went into prison (see below), the amount of arrearages that you owe will have continued to grow while you were inside. When you come out, and get a job, they can begin to take out not just the monthly amount you owe for child support, but more money to pay back the arrearages (up to 65% of your pay in total). They may also suspend your driver's license. Here are some things you can do:

**Passaic County Family Division Administration Building**

401 Grand Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
877-655-4371

**To establish or change an order**

**Passaic County Board of Social Services**

80 Hamilton Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
877-655-4371

**To locate a parent prior to an order**

**Passaic County Probation**

77 Hamilton Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
877-655-4371

**To enforce an existing order**

## **D. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Resources**

The following places provide counseling, support and shelter or referrals to shelter in domestic violence and assault situations. You can also call these 24 hour hotlines.

### **New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women:**

1-800-572-SAFE.

Domestic Abuse Hotline for Men and Women:

(888) 7HELPLINE (1-888-743-5754)

### **Passaic County Women's Center**

#### **Domestic Violence Program**

1027 Madison Ave., Paterson

Paterson, NJ 07513

973-881-1450 (hotline)

973-881-0938

Offers domestic violence crisis intervention, group and individual counseling for victims and their children. It also provides emergency shelter, food, clothing, court assistance accompaniment and case management services.

### **Strengthen our Sisters Outreach**

198 Lincoln Ave., West Milford

844-767-3718-Hotline

973-728-7835

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am-5pm;

Wednesday & Friday 9am-8pm; Sunday 10am-4pm

### **Project S.A.R.A.H**

925 Allwood Rd. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Clifton

973-777-7638 ext. 154

Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9am-9pm;

Wednesday 9am-8pm; Thursday 9am-7pm &

Friday 9am-1pm



## **Getting More Education**

Although getting more education may not be part of your short term plans, it certainly should be something to think about for the future, especially if you do not have a high school diploma or a GED.

### **A. High School Diploma/GED Certificate/HIGH School Equivalency Degree (HSED)/Vocational School Certificates**

It is very important to keep records of any degrees and certificates of completion and work-related licenses that you have earned.

Before you are released, you can write to the school or agency where you earned your degree or certificate to obtain a copy. Once you have a copy in your possession, this should be kept in your strong box.

FYI: If you earned your GED while incarcerated please call the Education Department of the institution you were in to obtain a copy.

You can also request your GED transcript or diploma verification from the New Jersey Department of Education providing you completed your diploma in a traditional setting. You will have to fill out a GED Information Request Form. **Please call 609-777-1050 for further assistance.** You may ask that it be sent to you; or you may pick up the form at a local testing center (which you can do after you are released) by downloading the form from the website <http://www.state.nj.us/njed/students/ged/ged7.htm>; or by writing to: GED Testing Program, Bureau of Adult Education and Family Literacy, New Jersey Department of Education, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Your chances of getting a job that pays a living wage, and of moving forward in a career will improve with more education, and not having the high school diploma or GED will simply lock you out from many opportunities.

## **B. GED Classes**

The places in Passaic County below offer classes to help you prepare for the GED exam. Call for exact times and procedures. Many locations offer classes at low cost or no cost. For more information, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Workforce Readiness & Literacy at (609) 943-5921. Call individual programs for information on classes offered, fees and/or time schedules.

### **GED LOCATIONS**

#### **American Training Center Inc.**

625 Main Avenue, Passaic  
973-471-9058  
Hours: Monday- Friday 8am-8:30pm

#### **Clifton Adult Evening School**

333 Colfax Avenue, Clifton  
973-470-2438  
Hours: Monday & Thursday 6pm-10pm

#### **Clifton Memorial Library**

292 Piaget Avenue, Clifton  
973-772-5500  
Hours: Saturday 10:30am-12pm

**Passaic County Community College**  
1 College Blvd., Paterson  
973-470-5230  
Hours: Monday-Saturday 7am-10:00pm  
Cost varies

**Passaic County One-Stop**  
200 Memorial Drive  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-742-9226  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

**St. Luke's CDC**  
139Carroll St., Paterson  
973-345-4309  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm  
Services GA recipients.

**Community Action for Social Affairs (CASA)**  
84-86 Mill St., Paterson  
973-523-5452  
Hours: Monday- Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

**Paterson Free Public Library: Community Learning Center**  
250 Broadway, Paterson  
973-321-1223 ext. 2322  
16+years old  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30am-3pm

**Totowa Public Library**  
537 Totowa Rd., Totowa  
973-942-7198  
Hours: Vary call for information



## **C. Higher Education**

If you already have a high school diploma or a GED certificate, you may want to move forward and get your associate's degree, bachelor's degree or graduate degree. Below are phone numbers for Passaic County.

### **LOCAL AREA COLLEGES**

**Passaic County Community College, Paterson**  
1 College Blvd., Paterson  
973-684-6868

**Passaic County Community College, Haskell**  
500 Union Ave., Haskell  
973-248-3000

**Montclair State University, Montclair**

1 Normal Ave., Montclair  
973-655-4000

**William Paterson University, Wayne**

300 Pompton Road, Wayne  
973-720-2000

**Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck**

1000 River Road, Teaneck  
201-692-2000

**Felician College**

262 South Main St., Lodi  
201-559-6000

**Felician College**

223 Montross Ave., Rutherford  
201-559-6000

**CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID?**

To pay for this, you will probably try to get some financial aid. If you are applying for any federal financial aid programs after release (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Federal Family Education Loans, etc.), you are not restricted unless you have a drug-related offense. For possession offenses, a first offense means one year of ineligibility (after your conviction), a second offense, two years, and third offense means you are “indefinitely” ineligible, which to the government means permanently ineligible. For a sales or distribution crime, a first offense has two years of ineligibility, a second offense makes it permanent. Private financial aid or loan programs may not have any restrictions.

**Other Things You Need to Know**

**A. Getting Legal Assistance**

To get assistance with civil (not criminal) cases, you can contact the toll free hotline for **Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ)**, which provides information and referrals, **888-576-5529**. You can also contact Passaic County Legal Services, at 175 Market St, Paterson, 07505973-345-7171. From prison, you can also contact the **Prisoner’s Self Help Legal Clinic**, P.O. Box 768, Newark, NJ 07101.

**B. Checking and Correcting Your Criminal Record (“rap sheet”)**

Since employers, landlords and others will be performing criminal background checks and getting copies of your criminal record, it is important that you know what is on it, and that it is accurate. You should also be prepared to answer any questions about your background.

FYI: Background checks are now only done electronically. You may contact State Police Headquarters to inquire how to correct your criminal record. The address is listed below.

State Section of Identification  
Records and Identification Bureau  
New Jersey State Police  
P.O. Box 7068  
West Trenton, NJ 08628  
1-609-882-2000 ext 6425  
1-609-530-4856 fax

### **C. Expungement: Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record**

You may have heard about expungement as one way to clean up your criminal record as you get some distance from your old arrests and convictions. Unfortunately, expungement is fairly limited in New Jersey. You can expunge any arrest that did not lead to a conviction at any point. You can expunge “disorderly persons offenses,” which are low level offenses in New Jersey, after 5 years, and most municipal ordinance offenses after 2 years. Convictions for “indictable offenses” (felonies), can be expunged 10 years from the date of conviction, payment of any fine, satisfactory completion of probation or parole or release from incarceration, but whichever is latest. The most serious of these offenses, such as murder, kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, robbery, arson, perjury and distribution, sale or possession with intent to distribute of controlled dangerous substances (drugs), can never be expunged. Expungement is a broader remedy for offenses committed as a juvenile. Legal Services of New Jersey has published a guide to cleaning up your record through expungement. To get a copy of the book, call 1-888-576-5529, or go to the LSNJ website, where you can download it for free at:

<http://www.lsnj.org/english/crime/municipalcourt/clearingyourrecord.cfm>

#### **Northeast New Jersey Legal Services**

##### **Passaic County Office**

152 Market Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-523-2900

### **D. Checking and Correcting Your Credit Record**

While New Jersey allows employers to look at your criminal record, many employers — and others like landlords and mortgage companies — will use a credit report instead of or in addition to the state’s records. Credit records are maintained by private companies and generally have information about your debts, your history of paying bills and other financial matters, but may also have

information about your criminal record. That information may not be correct, and the law does offer you some protections. For example, if an employer uses a credit record to deny you a job, they have to tell you this, and give you the name, address and phone number of the agency that provided the report, and the agency must give you a copy of that information on your request. They cannot charge you money for that request if the employer used the report to deny you a job. If the records of the credit agency contain incorrect information, they must investigate and correct inaccurate information.

You can get ahead of the curve by getting a copy of your credit record and making sure there isn't any incorrect information on it. New Jersey residents are allowed one free credit report each year. Three companies that provide this service are:

**EQUIFAX INFORMATION SERVICES, LLC:**

Write to them at P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA, 30374, or call 800-685-1111.

By mail, be sure to include your full name, current address, Social Security number, and most recent former address for file-matching purposes. You can also visit their website: [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

**TRANSUNION PERSONAL CREDIT REPORT:**

PO Box 1000, Chester PA 19022

Call 800-888-4213 or [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

**EXPERIAN:**

PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013

Call 800-397-3742.

## **E. Voting Rights**

New Jersey law does not allow you to vote while you are in prison, or while you are on probation or parole for an indictable offense (disorderly persons offenses don't disqualify you). **Once** you have completed your parole or probation term, you may register to vote. Make sure that you are registered in the county in which you reside. Applications for registration can be obtained from the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk. Registration forms are also available in various State agencies and at Motor Vehicle Commission offices and can be obtained while transacting agency business. If you are not sure, you can visit [http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/vote\\_doe.html](http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/vote_doe.html). You will be able to download a voter's registration form and mail it in. This site also explains who can register to vote and where you can register.

## **F. Registration of Sexual Offenders (Megan's Law)**

Sex offenders are required to register with the police under Megan's Law. Offenses include: aggravated sexual assault; sexual assault; aggravated criminal sexual contact; endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch

the morals of the child; luring or enticing and, if the victim were a minor and the offender not a parent, kidnapping; criminal restraint and false imprisonment and promoting prostitution of a child under 18. **You will be registered prior to release, but must re-register your home address at least 10 days prior to any move with the law enforcement agency with which you were registered when released.** You will also need to verify your address annually or every 90 days if you are a repetitive and compulsive offender.

## The Game Plan

Your first weeks out after leaving prison can be overwhelming. This section is set up to help you get organized and keep yourself on track towards your goals. First, think about what those goals are; what do you want or need to get done in your first week out? In your first month out? Where do you want to be in six months? There are lots of things that other people need you to do — your parole officer, for example, and your family — but you also need to think about what you expect from yourself.

Here are pages to use to plan your first days out of prison. There are some questions to ask yourself about what you plan to do. It's best to write things down and plan ahead. \*\*\*You should also refer to your discharge plan created by your social worker that outlines your needs. Have a wonderful and successful reentry!

### DO I have my Basic Needs?

Shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

Food: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Care: \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

### DO I have support?

Family: \_\_\_\_\_

Friends: \_\_\_\_\_

## I.D. Checklist

<u>Documents</u>	<u>Have?</u>	<u>Need?</u>
Social Security Card	_____	_____
Birth Certificate	_____	_____
County I.D.	_____	_____
Driver's License	_____	_____
Non-driver's I.D.	_____	_____
Certificate of Naturalization	_____	_____
Green Card	_____	_____
Military Discharge Papers	_____	_____
Passport	_____	_____
High School Diploma	_____	_____
Or GED Certificate	_____	_____
Prison Release Papers	_____	_____



## **Smart Book Topics**



**Getting Started:  
I.D. and Other Documents**



**First Steps After Release:  
Where Do I Go to Find...**



**Taking Care of Yourself:  
Getting Support**



**Taking Care of Yourself:  
Health Care Resources**



**Finding a Job:  
Employment Assistance  
and Training Programs**



**Reconnecting With Family**



**Getting More Education**



**Other Things You Need to Know**



**The Game Plan**